

Base tour unveils secret sites

Sellout crowd boards buses

SPACE BUFFS

■ About 100 people took the inaugural public tour of Vandenberg AFB, getting a look at missile weaponry seen nowhere else in the world.

By Brenna O'Boyle
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LOMPOC — The inaugural tour of Vandenberg Air Force Base on Thursday made the future for the non-profit program look promising.

"They thought it was great," said Andrew Salazar, president of the Western Spaceport Museum and Science Center that sponsors the tours. "I didn't have one problem reported to me today."

About 100 people each paid \$15 to take the five-hour tour of Vandenberg, which included a special lunch at the Officers Club commemorating the first Thor launch 35 years ago.

Salazar said he was not able to accommodate everyone who wanted to go.

"As of three days ago, we began a stand-by list...Basically, it was sold out," Salazar said. Several people came to the loading site at the Western Spaceport Museum hoping for

no-shows.

Once everyone was aboard the two chartered buses, one went to south Vandenberg and the other to north Vandenberg.

On north Vandenberg, the bus stopped at Space Launch Complex-10 West. There, Sgt. Donald Prichard with the 30th Support Group explained the history behind many artifacts. He showed them a Thor missile and the one-of-a-kind facility that was lengthened to store it.

"You're going to see some things today you'll never see anywhere else

Please see Tours, A5



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Thu, Jan 5, 2023